



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Enrollment for HCPD's free summer leadership camps underway** *Sessions held in July and August*

Howard County police remind families as they make summer plans that two sessions of its P.L.E.D.G.E. Summer Leadership camp are open for enrollment.

The P.L.E.D.G.E. camp is a one-week program designed to help students entering the ninth grade make smart choices to keep themselves safe. P.L.E.D.G.E. stands for pride, leadership, education, diversity, gang resistance and evaluation. Through a series of discussions and practical activities, participants learn the value of teamwork and develop leadership skills. Lessons and activities challenge their ability to make critical decisions, focus on core beliefs and values, recognize diversity and accept these differences as they work together toward a common goal.

Campers will also learn about drug and alcohol abuse, new communication techniques and ways to respond to peer pressure. The camp is staffed by school resource officers who will interact with the students in county high schools for the next four years. The camp, which is held at Centennial High School from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., is free and meals are provided.

One highlight of the camp is a fieldtrip to Terrapin Adventures, where campers participate in confidence-building activities, navigate obstacle courses and complete group challenges.

The first P.L.E.D.G.E. camp of the year will be held July 21-25. Enrollment has begun and continues through June 15.

The second 2014 P.L.E.D.G.E. camp will be held Aug. 4-8. Enrollment for this camp is also underway and continues to July 1.

For a P.L.E.D.G.E. registration packet and brochure, go to [www.hcpd.org](http://www.hcpd.org) and click on Youth Programs.

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